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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 15 SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER, 1933 NUMBER 11

## Swifts and More Swifts

To find a flock of Black Swifts is always interesting to the bird student, but to find Vaux and White-throated Swifts, a Violet-green Swallow and Black Swifts in the air at the same time is thrilling.

On September 3, 1933, five members of the Oakland Ornithological Club took a trip to Big Sur. About seven miles south of Carmel in a group of White-throated Swifts circling over the road one seemed not to have the white throat. A hurried exit from the automobile was made and it was soon discovered that only a few, in fact, were White-throated Swifts, the majority being Black Swifts. Then a Violet-green Swallow was seen and a moment later one of our party, Robert Failing, noticed one swift much smaller than the others, about the size of the Violet-green Swallow, with dark under-parts, which he readily identified as a Vaux Swift, thereby confirming the presence of all three swifts and one swallow at the same time.

Robert Taylor, Oakland, California. October 1, 1933.

## Golden Eagle

At 1:00 p. m., September 27, 1933, my attention was attracted by the peculiar flight of twenty or more domestic pigeons from the roof of the Y. M. C. A. Building located at Golden Gate Avenue and Leavenworth Street. The pigeons showed fright, and gazing skyward I saw a bird hovering a few feet above the flagpole of the building.

A pair of binoculars proved this bird to be an immature Golden Eagle. From 1:00 to 1:13 p. m., the bird swooped ten times within a few feet of the top of the pole, which carried a blue flag with a white "Y." I believe that the attraction was the gilded ball on the top of the pole.

Carl Smith, San Francisco, California. October 3, 1933.

An immature Golden Eagle being attacked by two Western Red-tailed Hawks, on October 10, 1933, at a low altitude on the Skyline Boulevard, abreast the Crystal Springs Lake, was observed by Commander and Mrs. Henry E. Parmenter.

## Albino Sparrow

My home in Redlands, San Bernardino County, is situated near the foot of the San Gorgonio Pass, which is on the transcontinental route for birds and airplanes.

Large flocks of White Pelicans frequently pass over, evidently heading for the Salton Sea or the Colorado River delta.

Numerous birds large and small live here in the trees and gardens. Flocks of crows, hawks and other small migrants are seen, but are hard to identify.

Every morning on our lawn is a flock of sparrows which I have identified as Western Lark Sparrows by referring to "Birds of the Pacific States," by the late Ralph Hoffmann. One of these sparrows is an albino, not entirely so, but when it flies its wings and coverts are all white; in fact, it looks white except for the tail and head.

M. Hall McAllister, Redlands, California. October 8, 1933.

## Grinnell Water-thrush

"Directory to the Bird-life of the San Francisco Bay Region," notes of the Grinnell Water-thrush: "Rare transient. Only one record for the San Francisco Bay region: Two birds seen along stream on 'Bootjack Trail' leading to Muir Woods, Marin County, August 13, 1916 (see H. E. Hansen, Condor, XVIII, 1916, p. 231)."

Several observations of this species have been made in recent years by members of our Association as follows:

In October (date not given) 1928, one was noted on the south side of Rodeo Lagoon, Marin County, by C. W. Lockerbie.

On September 14, 1929, one was seen at Middle Lake, Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, by Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens, The Gull, October, 1929, vol. 11, no. 10.

On October 18, 1931, at the same location where Mr. Lockerbie made his observation in 1928, one was seen by Charles A. Bryant.

On October 8, 1932, in the dried up pond west of Middle Lake, in Golden Gate Park, one was observed by Commander Henry E. Parmenter.

On October 17, 1933, in the low branches of a pine tree at Lake Merced one was noted by Commander Parmenter.

The above records would seem to indicate that this interesting species is a regular fall migrant in the bay region. Editor.

## Some Unusual, Early and Late Observations

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Ensign of San Rafael reported the presence in their garden October 9, 1933, of the Western Evening Grosbeak, and for the preceding two weeks the Western Tanager.

Miss Cornelia C. Pringle and Mrs. Albert B. Stephens on September 27th observed a Pacific Loon at Seal Rocks, and at the Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and one Black-throated Gray Warbler, the latter a new record for the park.

Mrs. Stephens reported the Varied Thrush in Golden Gate Park, October 5th, a very early date, and the Florida Gallinule at Lake Merced, October 12th.

Robert Taylor reported Ruby-crowned Kinglets at the Oakland Scout Camp, September 27th, and Varied Thrushes, October 10th, also House Wren, September 23rd (late date), Winter Wren, October 11th (early date), and also at his home in Oakland, Pipit, May 18th (late date), Cedar Waxwings, September 20th, and Dwarf Hermit Thrush, October 4th.

Eddie McClintock reported the following at Burlingame: Black-headed Grosbeak, October 11th, Ash-throated Flycatcher, September 24th, and Myrtle Warbler, October 12th.

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter observed an immature Wood Duck on Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, September 25th to 27th, and on Metson Lake, October 5th to 11th; Forster Tern at San Francisco Beach, September 25th; Least Tern, San Mateo and Dumbarton Bridges, 50 more or less, and one seen at Mountain Lake, Presidio, San Francisco, October 7th, the latter an unusual observation, and at Lake Merced, Black-throated Gray Warbler, October 5th.

Carl R. Smith reports seeing two Wood Ducks on Metson Lake, Golden Gate Park, October 22nd.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith reports three Pileolated Warblers at Mill Valley, October 8th, a very late date for this species.

The Pileolated Warbler was also noted at Bodega Bay, October 22nd, by Gordon Bolander, Robert Taylor and Mrs. Stephens.

Joseph Webb writes as follows: "Thursday evening, October 19th, I was very pleasantly surprised to see our winter visitant, the Hermit Thrush, in my back yard (San Francisco). On Saturday morning, the 21st, at about 6:30 o'clock, I heard him singing for quite a little while."

**September Field Trip** was taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Lake Merced, following the usual ronte. An ideal day attracted nineteen members and eight guests.

As the party walked down the ravine many familiar bird notes were heard, but the birds which were giving them stayed closely under cover, making observation difficult.

As we approached the lagoon at the end of the ravine the call of a Virginia Rail was heard. A Florida Gallinule swam about the lagoon, but hastened to cover at our approach. He soon appeared again and stood on a mound of dry stalks at the edge of the tules, where he spent some time preening himself, after which he returned to the lagoon and continued his feeding. A Sora Rail flew in front of us across the lagoon and alighted at the edge of the tules.

As we approached the larger lake, we were very much pleased to note how the tules and willows, which were cut down last year, have grown again. This improved condition assures bird lovers that the necessary shelter will soon be restored for the birds that are attracted by these associations.

The most interesting event of the day took place while our party was searching the surface of the lake and its tule-lined edges. Suddenly two birds appeared in the rapid flight characteristic of Doves, but upon closer examination only one proved to be a Mourning Dove, the other a Wilson Snipe. The Dove always a short distance above and behind the Snipe seemed to be pursuing the latter, finally overtaking him after both had flown back and forth several times. The Snipe when overtaken quickly turned and flew in the opposite direction with the Dove again in hot pursuit. We were unable to decide whether the Dove was really trying to overtake the Snipe in order to attack him or whether they were just playing. Finally the Snipe disappeared into the tules and the Dove made an unsuccessful attempt to alight upon a tule stalk where the Snipe had disappeared, then flew away. All during the performance the Snipe never displayed the zigzag flight characteristic of the Snipe, but always flew in an even line.

As we continued around the lake, we noted that the usual large flock of Gulls was still occupying the center of the lake.

A total of fifty-five species was noted as follows:

Horned Grebe
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Farallon Cormorant
Great Blue Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
American Bittern
Mallard
Baldpate
Canvas-back
Scaup
Ruddy Duck
Cooper Hawk
Marsh Hawk
Sparrow Hawk
Virginia Rail
Sora Rail
Florida Gallinule
Coot
Killdeer
Wilson Snipe
Western Gull
California Gull
Heermann Gull
Mourning Dove
Anna Hummingbird
Red-shafted Flicker
Say Phoebe
Black Phoebe
California Jay
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Bush-tit
Slender-billed Nuthatch
Wren-tit
Bewick Wren
Tule Wren
Robin
Pipit
Shrike
Audubon Warbler
Yellow-throat
Meadowlark
Red-winged Blackbird
Tricolored Red-wing
Purple Finch
Linnet
Willow Goldfinch
Green-backed Goldfinch
Spotted Towhee
Fox Sparrow
Junco
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Nuttall Sparrow
Song Sparrow

Chas. A. Bryant, Historian.

## Audubon Notes

**November Meeting:** The regular meeting will be held on Thursday, the 9th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be our former president, Brighton C. Cain, whose subject will be "Ramblings of a Naturalist." The lecture will be illustrated.

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**November Field Trip** will be taken on Sunday, the 12th, starting from Ross, Marin County. Buy round-trip ticket, 60c, and take 8:15 a. m. Sausalito Ferry. In case of heavy rain, trip will be taken the following Sunday.

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**October Meeting:** The 194th regular meeting was held on October 12th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with fifty members and guests present. President Charles A. Bryant, presiding.

A new member was elected, namely: Wm. H. Breeding Jr., of Ross.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Eddie McClintock: Burlingame, Red-breasted Sapsucker, September 16th; Pipit, October 1st.

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter: Stow Lake, Green-winged Teal, September 27th and October 11th; one on Chain of Lakes, September 30th and October 2nd, and two on October 11th; Cliff House, one Ruddy and Black Turnstones in various numbers, as many as 78 being seen during October; Tomales and Bodega Bays, Long-billed Curlew, September 10th; Lake Merced, Audubon and Tolmie Warblers, October 2nd; many Northern Phalaropes on lakes in Golden Gate Park, at least 100 on Metson Lake, October 11th. Shore birds at San Mateo and Dumbarton Bridges, Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Willets 100+, Pectoral Sandpipers 4, Marbled Godwits 1000±, Black-bellied Plovers 100+, September 27th; Willets 250+, Greater Yellowlegs 5, Knots 4, Marbled Godwits 1500±, Avocets 38, Black-bellied Plovers 500+, October 10th.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith: San Anselmo, Golden-crowned Sparrow, September 26th, Mill Valley, Dwarf Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Townsend Warbler; Kentfield, Say Phoebe, October 8th; San Rafael, Cedar Waxwing, October 11th.

Mrs. Stephens: Golden Gate Park, Fox Sparrow, September 27th, Golden-crowned Sparrow, October 5th, Audubon Warbler, Baldpate, October 7th.

Robert Taylor: Oakland Scout Camp, Slender-billed Nuthatch, September 20th, Townsend Warbler, October 7th; Oakland, Golden-crowned Sparrow, October 3rd.

Dr. Gayle Pickwell of the San Jose State Teachers' College gave a very interesting talk on the birds of Sequoia National Park.

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**Memberships** ($3 per year) for 1934 paid at this time entitle the new members to all the privileges of the Association for the remainder of 1933 free.


## Audubon Association of the Pacific

**For the Study and the Protection of Birds**

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Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.
Subscription to monthly Bulletin, $1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.
Membership dues, payable January 1st, $3.00 per year.
Student memberships, $1.50 per year. Life memberships, $50.00
Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer